

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN SYRIA

JN082145Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Under the patronage of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, a meeting was held today to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. The celebration took place in An-Nujum cinema house in Al-Yarmuk refugee camp. The Ba'th Party was represented by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmad, member of the regional command and head of the bureau of Al-Ba'th pioneers. The celebration was also attended by the members of the regional command of the Unified Palestinian Organization; the members of the command of the As-Sa'iqa organization; brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council; members of the PLO Executive Committee; leaders of the Fedayeen groups; heads of the Palestinian mass organizations and a large crowd of Palestinian people.

The meeting began with a minute of silence in memory of the martyrs of the Arab nation.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmad made the speech of the Ba'th Party in which he conveyed the greetings and appreciation of the Ba'th Party leadership headed by President al-Asad to all the Palestinian revolution fighters. He spoke on the importance of the Arab nation in facing the Zionist enemy and its occupation of Arab lands. He expressed his optimism on the victory of the Arab nation against its enemies. He also spoke on the alliance among the Egyptian regime, the Zionist enemy and the United States and said that the joint efforts of the Palestinian revolution and Syria are preventing those who attempt to surrender from surrendering.

'Arafat made a speech in which he affirmed that Syria, which takes into its arms the Palestinian revolution and forms the northern part of Palestine, forms with Palestine, which is Syria's south, a whole which cannot be partitioned. 'Arafat referred to As-Sadat's treasonous visit and how As-Sadat and Begin and Carter thought that the visit would end the Palestinian revolution. 'Arafat affirmed that this plot was destroyed, thanks to the summit of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation led by Syria under Al-Asad. He said that the Egyptian people's will is a guarantee to take to task As-Sadat the traitor. The Egyptian masses will say no to surrender, no to treason and no to capitulation.

Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member, also spoke at the celebration. He said that the National Charter for Joint Action and the continuation of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation is a guarantee that is able to foil all the liquidationist and capitulatory plots planned against the Arab nation. He referred to the Camp David agreement and said that As-Sadat represents only himself and that the plot is aimed at enslaving the Arab nation. He said that the Baghdad meeting was a real rejection of the plot and a surrender.

'Arafat Delivers Speech

JN081634Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 0530 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text of speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, delivered at a rally held by the As-Samid Society on 7 January on the occasion of the 14th Palestinian Revolution anniversary--recorded]

[Text] On this day we are celebrating the 14th anniversary of our Palestinian revolution [words indistinct] to our brother and the friend of our cause, martyr Boumediene, our friend Boumediene, who said that he was with the Palestinian revolution whether it was the oppressor or the oppressed; Boumediene who said that he was with Palestine.

I remember these words now on this occasion that we are celebrating with the workers and strugglers of As-Samid, who are fighting and forming a protective shield for the Palestinian gun. These strugglers represent one of the positions of this revolution to enable it to remain a giant with its flag fluttering despite all conspiracies and all plotters who say yes to As-Sadat, Begin and Carter.

However, this Arab will represented by this Palestinian gun says no to the agents and conspirators. The Palestinian revolution will continue. [Words indistinct] all these conspiracies against our people. These conspiracies are fierce at the present time, on the local and external level, in the Palestinian arena, in the Arab arena and the Middle East as well as in the international arena. However, I repeat what I have always said: that this revolution is a giant not affected by the strongest winds. Let them conspire as much as they want. They have conspired against us and they have defied [word indistinct] the 14th or 15th [word indistinct].

We are now entering our 15th year, the 15th year of our giant and victorious Palestinian revolution. On this occasion I would like to remind you of last year when Brzezinski said his famous words, goodbye to the PLO." When Brzezinski said goodbye to the PLO the conspiracy was great. He believed that if Begin and As-Sadat could meet in Jerusalem they would be able to impose conditions of capitulation on this Arab nation. They moved a third of the Israeli Army in order to attempt to beat us in southern Lebanon. However, the Lebanese struggler with his brother the Palestinian struggler achieved a miracle, the miracle of steadfastness and confrontation in southern Lebanon.

They reversed the equation in the area. They not only reversed the equation in the area but they changed the meaning of [word indistinct] war in the area, because the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters proved that they can defy all conspiracies and conspirators with their belief in this gun. [Words indistinct] they can defy Begin, Carter, As-Sadat and their agents in the area.

Brothers, they afterward wondered what steadfastness and confrontation could do. When the forces of steadfastness and confrontation met, they asked what steadfastness and confrontation could achieve. It could achieve nothing. In fact, people were saying that the area was an American zone of influence. But steadfastness and confrontation, as I said, shall not be [words indistinct] but that they will be a sweeping current [word indistinct] in the Arab nation. Let us review the results. Had not the slogan of steadfastness and confrontation imposed itself on the entire area in instead of Carter's, or As-Sadat's slogans [word indistinct] at Blair House or Camp David.

The slogan of steadfastness and confrontation was followed by the meeting between Syria and Iraq and then the Baghdad summit conference and resulted in this roar of our nation, which says no to capitulation, to defeat, to murderers, to the agents or to crime and to kneeling down. Our nation says yes to steadfastness and confrontation, to fighting. Believe me my brothers [words indistinct] these cubs, the flowers I see before me, shall one day hoist one flag over Jerusalem, one flag, and I challenge Begin that one flag will be hoisted over Jerusalem. It will be the flag of our Arab nation, the flag of the Palestinian revolution that will be flying over Jerusalem, the dome of the rock and the holy sepulchre.

We know brothers that the struggle is long, hard and difficult, and when I said that this year, the year of the 15th anniversary, will be the year of blood and fire, I meant the year of blood and fire, because the conspiracy is continuing in the area and they are trying to encircle steadfastness and confrontation and the sacred Arab will.

However, when Brzezinski said goodbye to the PLO, I told him last year that those who say goodbye to the PLO will have to say goodbye to their interests. I repeat what I said last year, that the party that says goodbye to the PLO will have to say goodbye to its interests. Carter must understand that the United States will have to say goodbye to its interests in this area.

Brothers, there is one important thing. When Brzezinski said goodbye to the PLO, steadfastness and confrontation took place. When he said goodbye to the PLO, there came victory in southern Lebanon. When he said goodbye to the PLO, the area said no to As-Sadat [words indistinct]. When he said no to the PLO, Khomeyni said he is with the Palestinian revolution. What is the meaning of this, brothers? This means that we have allies in the Iranian people against Brzezinski, and goodbye to his interests [words indistinct] in this area.

Everyone understands it. I say it here in the name of the Palestinian worker. I say it in the name of the Arab revolutionaries. I say in the name of the Lebanese fighter and of his brother, the Palestinian fighter, that this area will not witness peace or stability unless it is the peace or stability of the Palestinian revolution and the will of the Palestinian gun.

[Words indistinct] in the entire world and that the greatness of this revolution does not reside in its Palestinian character, but that it is of [word indistinct] Palestinian, deeply rooted in the Arab homeland. More than this it has world dimensions. The struggle is long and difficult. For this reason I said that this will be the year of blood and fire. I mean every word I say. [Words indistinct] the agents who adopt this policy that this year will be the year of blood and fire [words indistinct] the gun that shall let us go to Palestine. It is a revolution until victory.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES PALESTINIAN GRADUATES IN DAMASCUS

JN091001Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 0530 GMT 9 Jan 79 JN

[Text of speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman at graduation ceremony of technical class of Fatah maintenance workers in Damascus on 8 January--read by announcer]

[Text] Brothers! I am pleased to talk to you from this place in beloved and revolutionary Syria which was the springboard of the first technical Fedayeen organization in our forces. This organization eventually developed to the point where we could impose a fact that was recognized by Gur [former Israeli chief of staff] during the war in southern Lebanon. Gur said that his losses during the battles against our heroes were beyond the expectations of the enemy command. This was despite the fact that the Zionists had thrown about one-third of their army equipped with the most modern arms into the battle. Gur said: What can I do with people who are not afraid of death and who have benefited from the battle of the Al-Karamah [1968]? It is no coincidence that the battle of the south was waged in the same month, but 10 years after the first attempt to wipe out the Fedayeen. The Fedayeen, however, had rejected defeatism and decided to continue the battle and fighting.

Brothers, your strong will to confront the enemy for 8 full days created something new in the history of the Arab-Zionist struggle: The Zionist war minister demanded a cease-fire for the first time in the history of this struggle. We rejected the cease-fire because we do not recognize Resolutions 242 and 338. Consequently, we will not recognize Resolutions 425 and 426.

We then asked UN Secretary General [words indistinct] to the effect that it was the first time that the Zionists called for a cease-fire faced by the might of your heroism. Perhaps what makes us proud is the lessons derived from this battle about the ability and performance of the technical administration which managed to transport--despite the Zionist phantoms--equipment, supplies and food to our fighters. This revolutionary vigilance prompted Gur to declare that he must take the organized Palestinian military force into consideration, particularly since they were groups carrying out infiltration operations.

Brothers, beloved Damascus was the springboard of the first technical workshops of the Palestinian revolution. This has developed and now exists wherever we are. Your iron will has given impetus to the revolution, making it capable of confronting all those trying to impose their terrorism and capitulationist policy on us. Your will is what defines and determines the fate of this area, and not Carter, Begin or their hireling, As-Sadat. [words indistinct].

Brothers, there is a fact that nobody can conceal: Just like the Vietnamese peasant who raised the flag of the victorious revolution over Saigon, every Palestinian from this revolution and from this nation will raise the flag of our Arab nation and the flag of the Palestinian revolution over Jerusalem, thus challenging Begin, who impudently said to defeatist As-Sadat that 22 flags will fly over 22 Arab embassies.

Brothers, the current of steadfastness and confrontation is the strong current in our nation. It is the one which changed the facts they tried to impose on us. This current has clearly rejected capitulation and defeatism and is raising the flag of fighting until victory. It is a revolution until victory.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE MEETING

NC082124Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 1730 GMT
8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar chaired a meeting of the joint command of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement. The meeting was held in Beirut last night. The discussions dealt with the latest developments in the security situation in general and the situation in southern Lebanon in particular in light of the Zionist and isolationist threats to overrun the areas which are controlled by the UN emergency forces and the grave repercussions this will have on the Arab situation. The Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement maintain a token presence in these areas.

A number of measures on various levels were adopted at the meeting to confront the [words indistinct] recent conditions.

FATAH OFFICIAL ABU IYAD MEETS WITH LEBANESE PREMIER

JN090646Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 0530 GMT 9
9 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, met last night with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The 1 and 1/2 hour meeting was attended by brother Abu al-Walid, director of the central operations room. The discussion also centered on the Palestinian revolution's declared and known position of rejecting the idea of settling outside our country and of adhering to everything that will maintain calm in the southern area and in the other Lebanese areas. The discussion also dealt with certain aspects of the security measures that might be approved by the Lebanese cabinet at its expanded security meeting in Ba'Abda Palace tomorrow.

In a statement to journalists at the end of the meeting, brother Abu Iyad said that the discussion dealt with current topical issues. He declared the Palestinian revolution's commitment to any decision the Lebanese state might adopt concerning the security plan. Brother Abu Iyad said: We discussed the issue which people feel ashamed to talk about, namely the issue of settling Palestinians outside their country. Brother Abu Iyad added: We emphasized to Dr al-Huss what we have always stressed--that the Palestinians will never agree to settling outside their country even if this forces them fight for 100 years. He said: We are guests in Lebanon and are waiting for the moment to return to our country. He added: We are prepared to make every effort to explain this to world public opinion.

About the entry of a Lebanese Army division into southern Lebanon, brother Abu Iyad said: We welcome the army sent by the legitimate authorities. At any rate, this army will be better than that of hireling Sa'd Haddad, brother Abu Iyad concluded.

INA REPORTS ON ARMS TRAFFICKING NETWORK IN MIDDLE EAST

JN081826Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 January--The newspaper JAMHIR LUBNAN uncovered here today the existence of an arms trafficking network in certain areas in the Middle East run by Dori Sham'un, son of Camille Sham'un, leader of the rightist National Liberals Party. The paper said that the arms are distributed in accordance with instructions received by the leader of the network from certain Western and Zionist intelligence services.

The paper pointed out that it received this information from a Lebanese security report, which also said that the network has received large consignments of arms that it will shortly market in certain quarters.

The paper added that the activities of the network are not restricted only to coordination in arms affairs. The network also markets men in the countries involved in the U.S.-Zionist scheme. These men are trained in Zionist bases and carry forged passports of countries that are above suspicion.

PLO OFFICIAL MEETS SRV ENVOY; COMMENTS ON PNC MEETING

JN070630Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab world 0530 GMT 7 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, member of the PLO Executive Committee, received in Damascus yesterday the Vietnamese ambassador to Damascus. During the meeting, latest developments in the current situation in Southeast Asia were discussed.

The Vietnamese ambassador affirmed his country's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle for their national legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state on the soil of their homeland.

In another development, Abu Mayzar affirmed in Damascus yesterday that the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting will be held on schedule on 15 January in the Syrian capital. The PLO official spokesman said that 295 members will participate in the meeting. A delegation of the Iraqi Ba'ith Party will also attend.

Abu Mayzar expressed the belief that the project of national unity, which will be raised in the council meeting, represents the minimum. It will be approved almost unanimously.

PLO OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY VISITS CAIRO, HOLDS TALKS

JN061829Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports today that Basil 'Aql, the PLO UN representative and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has made a weeklong visit to Cairo. During the visit, 'Aql held talks with a number of Egyptian officials on Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the situation in the Middle East area.

Reports Denied

JN081826Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1758 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Cairo, 8 January--Basil 'Aql, PLO representative in the United Nations, has said that contrary to what has been published by the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH and broadcast over Monte Carlo radio, he has not contacted anyone in Cairo and has not met with any Egyptian official. He also said that he was not assigned any mission in Cairo.

'Aql added that his visit to Cairo was a private family affair related to the termination of his period of service with the Arab League and his intention to resign from the league after serving for 12 years.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC UNITY WITH KUWAIT

JN081054Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Jan--The State of Bahrain has welcomed the principle of economic unity among Arab Gulf countries in general and between Kuwait and Bahrain in particular.

This was contained in a press statement by Bahraini Minister of Finance and National Economy Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today. The Bahraini minister said that the differences in the two countries' financial and economic power will not affect coordination between them.

'Abd al-Karim affirmed that economic coordination between the two countries has been successful and positive. This represents an incentive to launch a more ambitious stage which will be founded on well-studied bases and gradual steps.

The Bahraini minister refuted the idea that economic equality does not exist between the two countries and that this will influence cooperation between them. He described such an idea as not representative of the truth and said that evidence of this is the European Economic Community, which is bound by unionist integrated coordination despite the fact that it has members with strong and weak economies.

KUWAIT

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGES FOR AMIR, PRIME MINISTER

LD081855Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Summary] YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj arrived in Kuwait this afternoon for a 2-day visit. He was welcomed at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah.

Mr al-Asnaj told newsmen on his arrival that he was carrying a message for his highness the amir from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and another message for the crown prince and prime minister from YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Qhami.

He said that his talks with Kuwaiti officials would cover relations between the two countries and matters of common interest. The minister lauded cooperation between Kuwait and the YAR.

QATAR

QATAR INCREASES OIL PRICE EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY

NC081532Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Doha, 8 Jan--The State of Qatar has decided to increase the price of its oil by 5 percent effective 1 January in implementation of the decisions which OPEC adopted at its recent meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Under this increase, one barrel of crude oil from Dukhan area will now cost \$14.23 and of one barrel of crude oil from the offshore fields will cost \$13.77.

Agreement has been reached with all importers of Qatari crude oil on these prices.

SAUDI ARABIA

SNA, TAP SIGN CONTRACT ON EXCHANGE OF NEWS

LD082333Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Jan--At the headquarters of SNA this evening a contract was signed between SNA and the TUNISIAN NEWS AGENCY (TAP) for joint cooperation and exchange of news.

On the Saudi side the contract was signed by 'Abdallah Hulayl, director general of SNA, and on the Tunisian side by Mahmud at-Turayki, chairman of the board and director general of TAP, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia.

The signing of the contract comes within the framework of efforts aimed at strengthening information cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

In accordance with the contract the two agencies will begin implementing an expanded program of exchanging news and pictorial services for distribution to the external transmission networks in Arabic and French. The contract also includes agreement to exchange expertise, information and training opportunities between the Saudi and Tunisian agencies.

YEMEN--PDRY

ADEN: N. YEMENI DISSIDENT FRONTS UNITE

LD051558Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] The Democratic National Front [DNF] and the 13 June Front of the People's Forces in the northern part of the homeland have stressed the need for all the Yemeni parties and nationalist and progressive organizations, private persons and social forces and groups that are prepared to struggle for the freedom, sovereignty and progress of the Yemeni homeland to shoulder their historic responsibility in advancing the militant movement through solidarity and cohesion, within a republican nationalist framework, so as to strengthen the revolutionary struggle and assure (?the homeland) of victory over the enemies of the freedom and progress of our Yemeni people.

This was stated in a joint communique issued by the two fronts after meetings between their officials from 25 December to 5 January. The meetings resulted in the 13 June Front of the People's Forces' joining the DNF.

The communique noted that the meetings and talks between the representatives of the two fronts were held in a spirit of historic responsibility and with an awareness of the paramount importance of the unity of all nationalist and progressive forces and groups within the framework of a unified popular Democratic National Front.

There was a firm belief in the need for the unification of the two fronts into one, namely, the DNF, a front founded on several bases, including the struggle to accomplish the aims of the political program of the DNF, which represents a common guide for all the nationalist and democratic forces in the northern part of the homeland.

PDY COMMUNIST PARTY REPORTEDLY TO FORM ANTI-SAN'A' UNITS

NC081114Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says today that the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Aden has decided to form special units to fight the present regime in the Yemeni Arab Republic and provide support for the subversive, terrorist opposition gangs there, including supplying them with arms, funds and military aid. The guns and organizations opposed to the San'a' regime are headed by Mujahid al-Kahali, 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Alim, and Sultan Ahmad 'Umar.

The paper adds that the committee also decided to escalate information campaigns, increase radio transmissions, and intensify contacts and coordination with the communists in the [Yemeni] Arab Republic and Iran through the elements now present in some gulf states.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also says that the committee decided to provide oil facilities for the Warsaw Pact ships which use Aden port, and to support the Soviet position against Cambodia on the pretext that the PRC is an antisocialist state because it supports Cambodia and because it has established diplomatic relations with the United States.

PDY PARTY CHIEF RECEIVES NEW SOVIET ENVOY

LDO70035Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, this morning received the credentials of Comrade (Viktor Ilich Nikovich), the news ambassador of the friendly USSR to the PDY.

During the ceremony, brother Abd al-Fattah Isma'il expressed his appreciation and admiration of the USSR for its internationalist stand of support for our country and for the development achieved in the relations between the YSP and the CPSU. He also appreciated the development achieved in various fields of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries. He said this cooperation and reciprocal support was of considerable importance in the current circumstances witnessed by our country at local, Arab and international levels. Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il assured the Soviet ambassador that he will receive every cooperation and facility for the execution of his new duties for the sake of cementing the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, parties and peoples.

He asked the ambassador to convey warm greetings and good wishes to Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and other Soviet leaders.

The Soviet ambassador praised his country's relations with Democratic Yemen. He said the USSR views with deep respect and great sympathy the development and successes of the democratic national revolution, whose 15th anniversary was celebrated recently.

On our country's foreign relations, the Soviet ambassador said that his country greatly appreciates the firm foreign policy being pursued by the PDRY, which stands in the forefront of the struggle to consolidate international security against the machinations of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. The Soviet ambassador reaffirmed that Democratic Yemen--its government and people--can rely on the support and solidarity of the Soviet people in its efforts to build a new life and in its struggle against the machinations of imperialism and reaction.

The credentials' ceremony was attended by brothers Muhammad Salih Muti', Politburo member and foreign minister; and Fadl Muhsin 'Abdullah, Central Committee member and secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

YEMEN--YAR

COMMENTARY ACCUSES ADEN RULERS OF HIRING SABOTEURS IN YAR

JN071419Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The dishonest secretary and the untrustworthy president of the PDRY is working to escalate the differences with our national regime in the northern part of the country. This comes through his helpless information media or through planning the sabotage operations in some of our regions situated near the [word indistinct]. He uses some gangs of saboteurs and agents that he buys with his ill-gotten money from the treasures of our people in the south. This is an attempt to divert attention from the escalating differences between him and his other colleagues whom he used to get rid of the late President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali on 26 July. When he succeeded in getting rid of 'Ali, he turned his back on them and worked to eliminate them. This became obvious when he expelled them from the Presidential Council and established himself as chief of state, in addition to retaining his position in the General Secretariat of the Communist Party of Yemen. Thus, he became the sole authority in Yemen, and he stripped his other colleagues of all their power. Despite all this the reports of the rife struggle between 'Abd al-Fattah and his followers from the outlaws and bandits on the one hand, and his former colleagues 'Ali 'Antar, Salih Muslih and Muhammad Salih Muti' and their supporters in the southern districts on the other, are getting through to the outside world, thus penetrating the Iron Curtain and the censorship imposed on all media in our southern region.

By escalating the differences with the north, the dishonest and dishonored president thinks that he can contain his differences with his naive colleagues who feel into his hands in the past and only belatedly realized that he was not sincere with them when they allied with him against their late Comrade Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali. The president has failed because his comrades have exposed him and they are no longer willing to be deceived again. They will eventually revolt against him because it will be a matter of life and death.

Let the adolescent child know that our national leadership under brother leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will not allow him to ignite war in our land because we believe in the unity of all our people and our desire to keep our nation away from the game of international power politics, which has afflicted many friendly and fraternal countries.

DER SPIEGEL INTERVIEWS GHALI ON TALKS WITH ISRAEL

DW090916Y Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 8 Jan 79 pp 88-89 DW

[Interview with incumbent Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, date and place of interview not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr Minister, will the negotiations between Egypt and Israel be resumed soon?

Ghali: That is hard to say. The only thing that is certain is that there cannot be any peace without negotiations. We hope very much that we will be able to eliminate the difficulties that so far have prevented a peace treaty.

SPIEGEL: On what are you basing your hope?

Ghali: A few months back we had already succeeded in overcoming considerable differences of opinion, even though there seemed to be little hope at that time.

SPIEGEL: But this does not change the fact that the situation is now deadlocked.

Ghali: Nothing is deadlocked. Our negotiating partner, the United States, is maintaining contacts with us as well as with Israel.

SPIEGEL: Doesn't Egypt have any direct contacts with Israel right now?

Ghali: No.

SPIEGEL: Egyptians and Israelis are no longer negotiating; and the United States is left holding the bag. Yet, you claim that the negotiations continue. After all, this would be possible only if the positions of Egypt and Israel became more flexible.

Ghali: No. The number one factor is the mutual wish to negotiate. Positions cannot change prior to negotiations but only in the course of negotiations.

SPIEGEL: Will Egypt change its stance?

Ghali: Egypt is not in a position to deviate from the fundamental demands President as-Sadat raised before the Knesset during his historical Jerusalem trip. But we are quite prepared to discuss specifics with the Israelis.

SPIEGEL: It is Cairo's demand that an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty be linked with a time schedule for autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza. This is exactly what the Israelis do not want. Is a compromise possible between the parties?

Ghali: The linkage was emphasized as early as Camp David, and this topic was the subject of discussion in Washington as well. This point is one of the pillars on which a comprehensive peace rests. Egypt insists that no separate peace treaty be concluded in any event, and hence it insists on a linkage of both issues.

SPIEGEL: But even if Israel granted self-government to the people in eastern Jordan and in the Gaza Strip, this would not do away with the Palestinian problem.

Ghali: We have stated time and again that what matters to us is the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, above all their right to self-determination.

SPIEGEL: Does this mean that Cairo continues to seek the establishment of a Palestinian state as the ultimate goal?

Ghali: That is it, exactly.

SPIEGEL: All told, 1.1 million Palestinians are living in western Jordan and Gaza. More than 1.5 times that number is dispersed all over the Arab world. How could a small Palestine accommodate these people?

Ghali: As early as Camp David we distinguished between the Palestinians who left the country in 1948 and those who ceased to live on the West Bank after 1967. Different solutions were mapped out in Camp David for both categories.

SPIEGEL: What is supposed to happen with the Palestinians abroad? Will they be integrated in the Arab host countries, or are there any other plans for them?

Ghali: Creating a Palestinian fatherland is more important than the problem of a Palestinian diaspora. After all, returning Palestinians will receive a Palestinian passport. In doing this they will become Palestinian citizens. There are precedents: think of Lebanese living abroad and of Jews with Israeli citizenship.

SPIEGEL: That can be only the last step.

Ghali: Obviously. First of all, the Palestinian state system is supposed to solve the problems of those Palestinians who do not live in Palestine any more.

SPIEGEL: Aside from the Israeli veto it seems that the Palestinians in the west Jordan do not assess the peace efforts made by Egypt and Israel very highly. Almost all mayors objected to Camp David, and hardly any of them would dare participate together with Israel and Egypt in implementing the project.

Ghali: We have good reason to hope that further contacts, particularly a firm schedule containing guarantees for the future of the areas, will make the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza participate in implementing the Camp David agreement.

SPIEGEL: Egypt has negotiating directly with the Israelis and insisting on U.S. participation. Wouldn't contacts with those directly involved, the Palestinians, be called for?

Ghali: Despite all the denials by the Palestinians, I assure you that Egypt is maintaining contacts with all Palestinian factions.

SPIEGEL: The most important faction is the PLO, which was declared the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people in 1974 by all Arab governments. Does that still hold true for Cairo?

Ghali: According to the Camp David Agreements, Egypt committed itself to first establishing contacts with the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza. They are the ones who will vote within the framework of the autonomy process. Nothing can be said against PLO members joining in. You know that the mayors have been elected because they back the PLO.

SPIEGEL: Jordan could play an important role. King Husayn rejects the existing Egyptian-Israeli agreements. Is Egypt prepared to set up Palestinian autonomy independently if need be?

Ghali: In an exchange of notes with the United States, Egypt declared its readiness to take over the role of Jordan on the West Bank if Jordan abstained from an agreement. I state that Egypt--if Jordan abstains--will see to it that a Palestinian administration will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza. Aside from that, we have not given up hope that Jordan eventually will join the peace process.

SPIEGEL: Syria, however, the other neighbor of Israel, wants nothing to do with the Camp David pact.

Ghali: Syria also rejected the first Egyptian-Israeli disengagement agreement, but later on it followed our example. We assume that the Syrians will realize that our action was right this time as well. They will realize that our policy will help not just the Palestinians achieve their rights but also regain the occupied Arab territories--including Syrian Golan and Arab East Jerusalem.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat's peace initiative doubtlessly got stuck in 1978. Will it achieve the hoped for results in the new year?

Ghali: I am optimistic. I am convinced that the peace treaty will be signed in 1979. I'll go even further: The Arab states, together with Egypt will work in the new year on implementing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. I believe that Palestinian autonomy will be established on the West Bank and Gaza this year through Egyptian-Israeli negotiations with participation of the Palestinians. That would be the first step in the direction of a Palestinian national homeland, and eventually a Palestinian state.

GHALI OPENS CONFERENCE OF EGYPTIAN ENVOYS TO ARAB WORLD

NC081916Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 January--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali tonight opened the conference of Egypt's ambassadors to all the Arab states. The conference was also attended by the caretakers of Egypt's interests in Aden and Algiers; the Foreign Ministry under secretaries; Egypt's chief delegate to the Arab League, Tahsin Bashir; and the directors of the departments of protocol, information, Palestine, planning, organizations and press at the Foreign Ministry.

Dr Butrus Ghali made a speech at the beginning of the conference. He welcomed the participants and expressed confidence that the discussions will result in a comprehensive evaluation of the Arab situation in light of Egypt's desire to achieve Arab solidarity and safeguard the interests of the Arab nation.

The minister stressed that Egypt has always followed a line aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just settlement that would guarantee the rights of the Arab nation. He said that Egypt adheres to its national commitment toward the Arab nation out of its faith in the unity of purpose and fate.

Dr Ghali explained that Egypt is aware that the main burden for wresting the full rights of the Arab nation falls on its shoulders and that it is working toward this end with all strength, sincerity and loyalty, disregarding the outbiddings and the outbidders.

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Dr. Ghali affirmed that Egypt's line has been firm since President as-Sadat's historic initiative and during the Camp David meetings and Washington discussions. He also reaffirmed that Egypt insists on the need to link the Egyptian-Israeli treaty with the Palestinian people's exercise of their legitimate national rights on the West Bank and Gaza, and that it also insists that its national commitments to the Arab world should not be jeopardized.

A concentrated discussion then began. The head of each mission presented an evaluation of the situation on the basis of the study he had prepared after studying developments in each Arab capital.

Egypt's ambassador to Saudi Arabia spoke first. He was followed by Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Lutfi Mutawalli, Ambassador to Morocco Said Murtada and Ambassador to Mauritania Hasan Ismat.

Ghali on Agenda

Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo 8 January--Egyptian Minister of state for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali has stated that the reason for holding the conference of Egypt's ambassadors to the Arab world is to draw up a general evaluation of the relations between Egypt and the Arab states and discuss ways of bolstering these relations.

In a statement he made after the conference's first session this evening, Dr. Ghali said that at this session the ambassadors submitted a number of reports fully explaining the attitude of the Arab states toward Egypt and the development of the relations between Egypt and these states.

Dr. Ghali said that at tomorrow's session, the conference will discuss ways of activating relations between Egypt and these states. It will also discuss the preparation of a general strategy for regulating these relations. He added that at the end of its sessions, the conference will prepare a report that will be submitted to President Anwar as-Sadat.

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR KHARTOUM

NC081105Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja left Cairo this morning for Khartoum after a brief 1-day visit to Egypt as part of a tour he is making of African states. While in Cairo, the Spanish foreign minister held talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali on the latest Middle East developments related to the peace negotiations and on bilateral relations.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM ON MAJOR CHANCES EXPECTED IN SYRIA

NC060806Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0709 GMT 6 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 January--AKHBAR AL-YAWM says today that major changes are expected in all sectors of the Syrian Ba'th Party and the Syrian Government. The aim of these changes, the paper adds, is to pave the way for Syrian-Iraqi unity by eliminating all the elements opposed to this unity. The paper further says that some leaders of the Syrian Ba'th Party have opposed the recent Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and are even more opposed to the inclination to declare unity between both countries.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM adds that Syrian sources have confirmed that anyone opposed to Syrian-Iraqi unity will be removed from his post or transferred to a less important post. The paper maintains that these changes follow reports about the foiling of a coup against the regime of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

ROSE AL-YUSUF ON IRAQI PRECAUTIONS AGAINST SHI'ITES

NO070811Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 7 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 January--ROSE AL-YUSUF, citing extremely well-informed Arab sources, confirms in its edition today that the Iraqi Government has greatly increased the state of emergency in Iraqi towns and issued strict orders to the security departments to use force against any activities expected to be carried out by the Shi'ite groups in Iraq. The same sources speak of imminent danger as a result of coordination between the Shi'ites in Iran and those in Iraq. They say that signs of this coordination will surface at any moment, and that this is being covertly supported by the Syrian Ba'thists. ROSE AL-YUSUF, quoting travelers from Baghdad, says that current reconciliation talks between the Iraqi and Syrian Ba'thists are devoid of good will, despite the apparent attempts to unify their diplomatic corps and so on. The magazine says that some travelers, describing the state of the talks between both sides, said that both the Syrian and Iraqi negotiators are holding daggers behind their backs.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH ASWAN GOVERNATE LEADERS 8 JAN

NC081340Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Aswan, 8 January--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met this morning with the popular leadership of Aswan Governorate. The meeting was attended by Presidential Assistant Engineer Sayyid Mar'i. Addressing the Aswan leaders, the president underscored their role in the work with the masses. He also spoke about the ample resources of Aswan Governorate, which could well be the land of hope that the Egyptian masses look to in the phase of the surge forward. The president and the popular leaders also discussed some of the achievements in various fields, especially in the domain of food security, in light of the instructions he gave on his previous visits. He also discussed some of the remaining obstacles and ways of surmounting them. The president issued immediate directives regarding drainage in the Kawm Umbu land and electricity in Aswan. He also directed that a solution be found immediately for the problem of passenger rail service from Cairo to Aswan. This week, the president will meet with the National Democratic Party leadership in Aswan Governorate.

ECONOMY, FINANCE, PLANNING MINISTERS OUTLINE POLICIES

NC081716Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings this morning under Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib. At the outset of the meeting, the assembly members stood up in tribute to deceased Algerian President Houari Boumediene in appreciation for the stands he took on the Arab cause, especially during the glorious October War, and for Arabizing Algeria after independence.

The assembly then heard a statement on the economy delivered by the minister of economy, foreign trade and economic cooperation in which he outlined his ministry's policies for the coming period.

The minister said: The government has drawn up its plans on the basis of achieving a true growth rate of not less than 8 percent annually. To achieve this, all the domestic and foreign resources must be mobilized and exploited and the economic course must be corrected to permit the achievement of domestic and foreign economic balance in the medium term. The minister then discussed the open-door policy, economic cooperation, the banking system, insurance and the money market. He said: The ministry is directing its policy toward bolstering the open-door policy in the broad sense of word. It is also working to strengthen the public sector by providing the necessary facilities and loans. It is also encouraging the private sector and opening doors for it to contribute effectively to economic development efforts. He said the ministry also encourages the participation of foreign investments.

Finance Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi then delivered the financial statement on the state's 1979 draft budget. He said: The draft is the first step toward a new phase of radical development and constructive work that will contribute to the cultural development of our society. After discussing the most important international economic developments during the recent phase, the minister said: We in Egypt are going through a phase of transformation from a war economy to a peace economy. The Egyptian economy has improved tangibly as a result of the government's efforts to correct the economic course; its adoption of the open-door policy in an effort to attract the savings of Egyptians working abroad; its wider use of incentive pricing; its achievement of a tangible increase in the state's revenues as a direct result of resuming navigation in the Suez Canal, encouraging tourism and increasing oil revenues and foreign aid.

Despite this, he added, the main reasons for the economic problems continue to lie in the increased population growth in relation to agricultural resources; in the increased rate of public and private consumption; in the imbalance between wages and the prices; in the continued deficit financing in the state's general budget and the great balance of payments deficit. The net deficit in the state's general budget increased from 700 million pounds last year to 1.197 billion pounds in the 1979 draft budget. He said that capital deficit is not a threat to our economic course, but the current deficit entails commitments that pile up year after year and eventually weaken our intrinsic ability to meet the basic societal requirements.

Dr 'Ali Lutfi then outlined the targets of the 1979 budget. He said that they are represented by meeting the requirements of the armed forces; achieving food security; easing the burden of living of those with limited incomes; providing citizens with the basic services; concentrating attention on the construction of new cities and the housing projects.

Dr 'Ali Lutfi concluded his statement by saying that the ministry is carrying out studies on the taxation system in accordance with a new bill on customs tariff. It is also seeking to divert public spending away from luxuries.

The minister of planning then delivered a statement on the national draft plan for economic and social development in 1979. He said: This plan takes into consideration a number of priorities and targets. These include the intensification of the national efforts and mobilization of the society's resources to wage the battle of construction, achieve prosperity for the Egyptians and implement regional planning projects on the basis of dividing the republic into eight economic regions; giving encouragement to the local governments; transferring power to the local government authorities; correcting the course of the economy; creating new employment opportunities; bolstering and guiding the economic sector; taking interest in the natural resources; rethinking the entire educational system.

KUWAITI PAPER: ARREST, EXECUTION OF IRAQI COMMUNISTS

LD091235Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Jan 79 p 1 LD

[Text] Well-informed persons arriving from Baghdad have affirmed to AS-SIYASAH that another group of army communists was executed in Baghdad the Sunday before last. These sources said that the latest group consisted of 18 soldiers who were accused of being involved in unlawful organizations in the Iraqi Army.

The latest executions of Iraqi communists were accompanied by arrests of a number of Communist Party of Iraq [CPI] officials, including Majid 'Abd ar-Rida who was arrested at the Baghdad airport as he attempted to leave for Aden. Seven members of the CPI Central Committee were also arrested. The name of Al-Asma'i has also been mentioned among those arrested. Reports also speak of the disappearance of two members of the local communist party branch in Basrah as well as Muhammad Jawad Tu'mah, the National Front representative in Basrah.

Certain sources link the recent executions of CPI members to Saddam Husayn's visits to Moscow and Havana. Internal reports indicate that the results of the talks in Moscow and Havana have led to attitudes different from those declared in official statements. The latest executions of CPI members are believed to be a direct reaction to such attitudes.

With regard to the talks in Cuba, it has been observed that these coincide with developments in Ethiopian-Eritrean relations in favor of reconciliation. The impression among observers is that the Iraqi mediation with Cuba regarding the Ethiopian-Eritrean war was not so successful.

INA REPORTS ON SYRIAN-IRAQI ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JN081649Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 January--'Adnan Husayn, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and minister of planning and chairman of the Iraqi side to the Joint Committee of Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation, today returned to Baghdad accompanied by the Iraqi delegation, after attending the meetings recently held in Damascus.

The delegation was made up of Hasan 'Ali, member of the RCC and minister of trade; Muhammad 'Ayish, member of the RCC and minister of industry and minerals, Latif Nasif ad-Dulaymi, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; and 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud 'Abdallah, minister of irrigation. The delegation also included the undersecretaries of the Ministers of Planning, Oil, Industry and Minerals, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, and Transport, as well as heads of several other departments.

The two sides reviewed the results of the technical contacts and consultations that were recently held in the two fraternal countries.

The committee reached important decisions and results on the way toward uniting the common interests to reach a unified framework in accordance with the Joint National Action Charter.

It is recalled that the Joint Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation Committee is supervising the implementation of coordination and integration between the two fraternal countries and works to further bolster and develop cooperation in agriculture, industry, minerals, irrigation trade, planning, transport and other economic spheres.

AD-DUSTUR REPORTS WEST BANK MEMO TO PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

JN070835Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 79 pp 1, 19 JN

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] A Palestinian source in Amman yesterday denied that the subject of the formation of a Palestinian government in exile is included on the agenda of the Palestine National Council meeting which is scheduled to take place on 15 January in Damascus.

The source said that over 10 people have been invited from Jordan to attend the 295-member council meeting.

Meanwhile, AD-DUSTUR has received reports from the West Bank indicating that the Nationalist forces, mayors, trade unionists and professionals in the occupied territory have drafted a memo to the Palestine National Council defining the position of the Palestinian masses in the West Bank on the various issues now being raised on the Arab and international level concerning the Palestine question.

The reports say that the memo calls on the groups of the Palestinian resistance movement to unify their ranks and to come out with a unified Palestinian strategy.

The memo says that the Palestine National Council charter must not be tampered with and that the Palestinian organizations must face up to their responsibility in the struggle for liberation and that Palestinian and Arab resources must be devoted to the occupied territories.

The memo reminds the Palestine National Council of the sufferings and severe life experienced by our people in the occupied territories because of the daily provocation by the Zionist occupation authorities and the plots being hatched against the Palestinians.

The memo calls for an overall effort to stop Israel's immigration and Judaization plans by encouraging economic, industrial and construction projects in the occupied territories and supporting the educational institutions so our people will remain steadfast.

The 120 signatories thus far of the memo, who represent various sectors of the population, stress that the people in the occupied territories are determined to stand fast and to resist all conspiracies, especially the autonomy conspiracy which Israel is trying to implement.

The reports also say that leaflets have been distributed in various cities on the West Bank warning the people against being involved in the Israeli conspiracy of autonomy following the Camp David failure. The leaflets urged the people to depend on themselves in resisting the occupation. The leaflets condemned Zionist's recent blatant encroachments in Jerusalem, especially its tampering with Dung Gate in the past few days.

KING HUSAYN REPORTEDLY TO MEET WITH 'ARAFAT

JN081236Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Jordanian diplomatic sources have stated that King Husayn of Jordan will soon meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as part of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog. An important statement is expected to be issued at the end of the meeting drawing up a new course for Jordanian-Palestinian relations during the next stage.

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PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS TO VISIT SYRIA 13 JAN

NC090915Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this morning received a telephone call from Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

It was agreed during the conversation that Prime Minister al-Huss will visit Damascus on Saturday for talks with senior Syrian officials.

CHIEF OF STAFF RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD CELEBRATIONS

NC081340Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] This morning, the chief of staff, Staff Brig Gen Munir Turbayy, returned from Baghdad. He was accompanied by the deputy chief of staff for supplies, Staff Col Engineer John Salim. Both men represented the Lebanese Army Command in the celebrations commemorating the establishment of the Iraqi Army.

AL-HUSS MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS 8 JAN

NC082030Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this evening received a Palestinian Command delegation including Salah Khalaf and Sa'd Sayil. The discussions during the 2.5 hour meeting dealt with Lebanese-Palestinian relations and the situation in the southern area.

Khalaf confirmed after the meeting that the Palestinian resistance rejects the idea of settling Palestinians outside of their own country.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 9 January carries the following report on the meeting: "The situation in the south was discussed by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf at Prime Minister al-Huss' house in Ad-Dawhah last night.

["Salah Khalaf emphasized the Palestinians' absolute rejection of settling. He welcomed the entry of the Lebanese Army into southern Lebanon and the implementation of the security plan. He said that the Palestinians absolutely cannot accept settlement, even if they have to continue fighting for 100 years. He said: We are guests in Lebanon and are waiting for the hour to return to our homes. We are also prepared to exert every effort to explain this fact to the local and world public. He added: Allegations that Palestinians are buying land in southern Lebanon are completely untrue."]

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS HAS CONTACTS ON UNIFIL FORCES

NC051305Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today held consultations with the charge d'affaires of the Norwegian Embassy in Lebanon on the situation in southern Lebanon. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes. After the meeting, the Norwegian charge d'affaires said: There is no intention or thought of withdrawing the Norwegian contingent from Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said that Iran has informed the UN Secretariat General that it will withdraw its contingent from the UNIFIL in southern Lebanon. He said: We have been expecting this withdrawal for several reasons. On the French contingent, he affirmed that only the logistic unit stationed in southern Lebanon will stay. Minister Butrus said: Of course, other UN elements must come to fill the gap in the UN forces, and the UN secretary general is working on this matter. As for the extension of the UNIFIL mandate, the foreign minister said that this is taken for granted.

INTERIOR MINISTER SALAH SALMAN LEAVES FOR PARIS

NC051340Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 5 Jan 79 NC

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman left for Paris at 1300 on the first leg on a European tour that could also include London and Switzerland and last several days.

OFFICIALS RECEIVE GREEK CYPRIOT JOURNALISTS

NC081835Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Today, Prime Minister al-Huss met at Government House with a delegation of Greek Cypriot journalists. The doyen of Lebanese editors, Milhim Karam, also attended the meeting.

Prime Minister al-Huss welcomed the journalists, saying: I can only welcome your initiative to visit Lebanon at this delicate stage. I do not intend to give a press conference now. However, I take this opportunity to assure you that we intend to remove all the obstacles standing in the path of extricating Lebanon from its crisis.

Prime Minister al-Huss praised the vitality of the Lebanese individual--a vitality that is bound to insure Lebanon's recovery from its fall as soon as stability and security are restored.

The meeting then turned into an impromptu discussion during which Prime Minister al-Huss replied to questions about the south; the Camp David conference; financial investment in Lebanon under the guidance of an investment insurance company that is about to be established; the contacts being held by Lebanon on the international level to deal with the situation in Lebanon; and Lebanon's rejection of resettlement in keeping with the requirements of the Arab issue and the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus also received the Greek Cypriot journalists' delegation in the presence of Milhim Karam.

Asked by the Greek Cypriot journalists' delegation whether there is a connection between the Lebanese and Cypriot problems, Minister Butrus replied: It is difficult to answer this question. One cannot assume that there is a connection between both problems, because the Cypriot problem was born before the Lebanese problem.

The Lebanese problem is related to the Middle East issues, and is extremely thorny. Minister Butrus added: The area's problems are certainly interconnected, and Cyprus is naturally a part of this area. Minister Butrus went on to say: As long as the big powers have an interest in events in this area, I believe that there is bound to be a relation between the Cyprus and Lebanese problems. However, if we put this matter aside and consider these problems from a domestic point of view, then I do not think there is any relation between both problems.

RADIO COMMENTARY REFUTES ENEMY'S 'TENDENTIOUS RUMORS'

JN081843Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] As was expected, the hostile quarters have reacted hysterically to the steadfastness of our people and to the will of the strugglers who have stood in the face of all conspiracies and intrigues. Our strugglers have also rejected succumbing to the enemy pressures.

These hysterical reactions have bluntly exposed the fear and worries of imperialists and Zionists in light of the current unity measures taking place between the fraternal countries Syria and Iraq. The hostile quarters fear the new situation that has ensued from the Damascus and Baghdad stands, which have aborted the efficiency of the American-Zionist design that was aimed at our nation, particularly since the ruler of Egypt has devoted himself to the implementation of this design.

It was natural then that imperialist and Zionist circles, backed by Western information media, would start circulating rumors and intrigues with the aim of shaking the masses' confidence in and weakening their cohesion and support for their leaders. This was a very natural and expected reaction from the enemy, particularly since Syria and Iraq have reached remarkable changes that eventually aborted all enemy attempts to humiliate the Arabs and impose a fait accompli policy on them.

The enemies of Arabism are once again playing a losing and hopeless card by spreading tendentious rumors. Our masses in the Syrian Arab Republic are now, under the leadership of struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, more convinced of and adhere more strongly to the march of construction, stability, integrity and honor. They are definitely confident in eventual victory. Thus, they are increasingly determined to face the fiercest conspiracies and designs. They have gained immunity against all sorts of lies and rumors spread by the enemy, who has lost all hope of breaking through the steadfastness and confrontation line.

Our people in Syria have honorably followed their leadership and have rejected giving any concessions or succumbing to the enemies. Our people are determined to restore the usurped land and regain all our rights. Our people are heading toward a cheerful future of hope and victory. All plots and hostile rumors will only make our people more and more persistent in reaching and fulfilling their aspirations in progress, liberation and unity.

ECONOMIC TALKS WITH IRAQ CONCLUDE; AGREEMENTS REACHED

JN081721Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] The Syrian-Iraqi Joint Economic Committee concluded its meetings that have been taking place in Damascus for the past 5 days. This morning, a number of agreements and minutes were signed at the Syrian Central Bank. These included the basic points of bilateral cooperation and integration in most economic fields, including industry, agriculture, planning, oil and others. The agreements and minutes were signed by the ministers of agriculture and agrarian reform, industry, planning and oil of both fraternal countries. Major minutes were also signed for Syria by Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and for Iraq by 'Adnan Husayn, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of planning.

The signing of the agreements and supplements was attended by the members of the Syrian and Iraqi delegations to the Joint Economic Committee meetings.

In a speech at the signing, Jamil Shayya said: As a result of all the negotiations, and contacts between the Syrian and Iraqi brothers during this session, we were able to lay the basis for joint action for the next stage. We have defined our plans in detail and in all sectors to help realize the economic unity that we consider the firm and unchanging basis for any forthcoming political unity between both countries. Unity is the aim we aspire to as fraternal countries and peoples. This unity is also seen in the implementation of the National Charter for Joint Action, which was approved by the political leaders in the historic Baghdad charter in view of the pan-Arab responsibilities at this stage in the history of the Arab nation.

Shayya said: I can only thank all the Iraqi brothers, who worked hard and with national spirit. I also thank the Syrian brothers, who worked in a similar manner. As a result of this joint national spirit and mutual understanding, we were able to reach what we did.

'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and planning minister in Iraq, also made a speech on the occasion in which he praised the hospitality accorded to the Iraqi delegation from the very beginning by President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian officials.

'Adnan Husayn said: Despite the great material achievements realized through the bilateral meetings and transferred to a new phase, I feel that the morale gain resulting from such meetings is much more valuable than the material results we have already reached. The sentiments that surrounded our work and the positive spirit that permeated the atmosphere of the work during this short time made us feel that we really succeeded in building strong bridges of trust and love between the officials in both countries. We would like to see these officials working in one country and within a very short time so as to see the fruit of the unity between both countries.

Concluding his speech 'Adnan Husayn said: I and my colleagues express our happiness and gratitude for the overwhelming love we have been witnessing. We assure you that we always look upon Syria as our own country, which will be proved in letter and spirit. I hope that we will succeed in reaching the great aim of unity that we cherish and dream of.

In a statement to SANA after the conclusion of the Economic Committee meetings, Shayya praised the results of the first meeting of the Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation Committee in both Arab regions. These results, he said, included steps and numerous measures on various levels between both fraternal countries.

Shayya said: A bilateral agreement stipulated taking practical measures to help coordinate the methods of planning. A central commission for joint planning was formed. The organizational framework was also decided on in order to lay the basis for the next 5-year plan in both countries. Agreement was also reached to draw up a unified strategy in industry and agriculture and set up joint projects in these fields.

On trade relations we have achieved a great step: We have implemented the rules of the Arab economic unity agreement and of the Arab common market in all their phases. The implementation will make the exchange of all industrial, agricultural, animal production and natural resources free and unfettered.

The sides also agreed to coordinate the work of the trade organizations to take joint stands in relations with foreign organizations and companies.

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A number of agreements in the field of tourism were also reached, the most important of which is the establishment of a national company for tourism. This company will work to establish and invest in tourist centers and sites in both countries and will organize tourist transport and travel from such places. Special attention was given to the issue of transport and communications to entrench the ties of brotherhood between both countries and facilitate the travel of the citizens between them.

In the oil sector, an agreement was reached on all the principles related to the flowing of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory to Banyas. Both sides reached agreement on joint oil issues in the interest of both countries. The subcommittees will resume their work directly to take the necessary measures for implementing these agreements. The subcommittees will have to submit a report on their work during the second session of meetings of the committee, which will be held in Baghdad later.

This afternoon, 'Adnan Husayn returned to Baghdad accompanied by his delegation after attending the meetings of the Syrian-Iraqi Joint Economic Committee. Before leaving Damascus, Husayn made a statement to SANA in which he referred to the minutes of the meetings related to industry, agriculture, planning and oil. He said: Agreement was also reached on the special principles concerning the flowing of Iraqi oil through Syrian pipes and also on supplying the Syrian Arab region with a quantity of oil for local consumption according to Syria's needs.

Husayn said: Agreement was also reached for the Joint Committee to resume its work with the aim of reaching a high level in economic work commensurate with the spirit and principles of the National Charter for Joint Action.

Concluding his statement, Husayn thanked President Hafiz al-Asad, the prime minister, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs and all the officials concerned for their efforts to make the work of the joint economic committee a success.

PRIME MINISTER PRAISES SYRIAN-IRAQI STEPS

JN062058Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus--In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi has stated that the steps that are being achieved by fraternal Syria and Iraq constitute a surging pan-Arab turning point at this stage of the Arab struggle. These steps, the prime minister said, also represent a good example of what unified and responsible vigilance can achieve. These steps are also a good example of what our Arab nation possesses in the area of political and economic effectiveness.

The prime minister added that these steps are achieving--through faith, will and determination--the stands that have been drawn up by President Hafiz al-Asad. They also assert the Arab masses' determination to confront present circumstances, the Zionist-imperialist plots and the capitulationist policies.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE DEPUTY AL-HUSAYNI

JN081646Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received Lebanese deputy Husayn al-Husayni, secretary general of the Al-Amal organization. The meeting dealt with developments in the Lebanese situation.

LIBYA

AT-TURAYKI RECEIVES GAMBIAN FOREIGN, ECONOMIC MINISTERS

LDO82116Y Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 8 January, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, received the Gambian Minister of External Affairs Mr Lamin K. Jabang who is accompanied by the minister of economic planning. Both are attending the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Gambian joint committee for economic and social cooperation.

Attended by the director of the African department at the Foreign Secretariat and the ambassadors of both countries, the meeting discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation and the strengthening of relations and reviewed African issues and matters of common interests.

Mr Lamin K. Jabang praised the efforts exerted by the Jamahiriya to support African countries as well as the interest shown by the Jamahiriya in reinforcing bilateral relations with Gambia in all fields.

HEALTH SECRETARY RECEIVES HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LDO82110Y Tripoli JANA in English 1726 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 8 January, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Health Secretary Mr Muftah al-Usta 'Umar this morning met with Mr Frigyes Pujá, the Hungarian minister of foreign affairs who is currently visiting the Jamahiriya.

They discussed the strengthening of cooperation between the Jamahiriya and Hungary particularly in the field of health.

LIBYAN, HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' SPEECHES REPORTED

LDO72112Y Tripoli JANA in English 1840 GMT 7 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Jan 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Libyan Arab-Hungarian discussions to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation started today at the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli. Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary, headed the Libyan Arab delegation, while Mr Frigyes Pujá, foreign minister, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday, headed the Hungarian side.

Dr at-Turayki delivered a speech at the start of the session in which he greeted the Hungarian foreign minister and his accompanying delegation.

He said: "Our bilateral relations have undergone marked development during the past years through bilateral contacts, the last of which was Colonel al-Qadhafi's visit to Hungary last year, and which scored significant results through the discussions between Colonel al-Qadhafi and the Hungarian president."

The foreign secretary pointed out that the relations between the two countries "are not ordinary relations but strategic ones, endorsed by the two peoples. Nor are they temporary relations, but continuous, not merely between the Jamahiriya and Hungary but those of Arab progressive forces, represented by the Jamahiriya, in the Arab nation, Africa and Asia."

He added: "Tripoli's conference of the steadfastness and confrontation front had affirmed these relations, while these discussions, which are a continuation of previous ones, will be an important stage in strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation. We, as two countries, are seriously seeking to develop these relations, consolidating them in the interest of the two friendly peoples."

The foreign secretary expressed his hope "that the visit of the Hungarian foreign minister to the Jamahiriya is another step contributing to the development of these relations, and enabling him to get acquainted with the achievements realised by the Libyan Arab people and to observe the democratic experience, the establishment of people's power and the achievement of prosperity and growth on the land of the Jamahiriya."

The Hungarian foreign minister replied in a speech expressing his joy at visiting the Jamahiriya, and the warm welcome he was accorded on his arrival in Tripoli.

He said: "The Hungarian Government and people highly appreciate the results of Colonel al-Qadhafi's visit to Hungary, and that his talks affirmed the possibility of expanding cooperation and reinforcing relations between the two countries. Colonel al-Qadhafi's visit to Hungary had strongly reinforced the bilateral relations."

The Hungarian foreign minister went on to say: "It is our duty to benefit from these possibilities in reinforcing relations to confront our mutual enemy, because our enemy is the same, and our friend is the same; it is therefore in the interest of our two peoples that he should cooperate with the progressive forces in the world."

Concluding his speech, the Hungarian foreign minister expressed his country's desire to develop cooperation with the Jamahiriya in all fields.

MOROCCO

APPOINTMENT OF SAHARAN MINISTER OF STATE VIEWED

LD051258Y Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 5 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, 5Jan (MAP)--The Moroccan progovernmental daily MAROC SOIR, published here Thursday a commentary under the title "the inalienable Sahara provinces".

The daily said that "the appointment of Khali Hanna Ould Rachid as a secretary of state concerning the Sahara affairs, and three other governors natives of the Sahara, shows not only the perfect integration of the inhabitants and the elite of our Sahara provinces into our national community, but also constitutes the reaffirmation of our will and our determination to defend our sovereignty".

Recalling Morocco's position after the different declarations concerning the conditions of an eventual reestablishment of peace, MAROC SOIR added that "the measures that had been decided constitute a new manifestation of King Hassan and Moroccan people's determination to not accept any peace, or agreement which may threaten our rights, our sovereignty, and our territorial integrity".

Saharan Appointments Commentary

LD051302Y Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 5 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Rabat, Jan 5 (MAP)--The Moroccan newspapers largely commented here on the king's nominations and the Guadeloupe summit.

The semi-official daily LE MATIN DU SAHARA, quoted that "the appointments of Hanna Ould Rachid as a secretary of state concerning the Sahara affairs, and three other governors natives of the Moroccan Sahara, are considered, in these actual circumstances as particular [as received]. In effect, these appointments concern the new manifestation of the irreversible and definitive integration of the Sahara provinces into our national community".

"Khali Hanna, added LE MATIN, and before the liberation of the Sahara provinces, was leading the sole Sahara United Party, which gathered all those who were fighting and militating for the return of the former Spanish Sahara to Morocco".

PARTY DAILY COMMENTS ON SAHARAN INTEGRATION

LD051300Y Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 5 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Jan 5 (MAP)--The Istiqlal Party's daily AL-ALAM, commented here Thursday on the declarations made by Moustapha Ould Saleck, the Mauritanian chief of state, indicating that Morocco as well as Mauritania have always worked to put an end to tensions which could lead to war. "The achievement of territorial integrity is inexorably placed on independence" adds the daily.

We have fought against French and Spanish colonialism in the north and the south of Morocco that lead to the successive liberation of Tarfaya, Ifni and the former Spanish Sahara.

"The refusal of war and the reaffirmation of the Moroccan heritage of the former Spanish Sahara is only a prelude to a communal action of searching for a real peace based on the principle of self-determination of the people and territorial integrity", wrote AL-ALAM.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER

JN081510Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 8 January--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister, today received Mr Marcelino Oreja, Spanish foreign minister, who arrived in the country this morning on a day's visit. After the meeting, the vice president said that they had reviewed the relations between the two countries and the steps that have been taken to promote and develop these relations. They also discussed the African issues, the Middle East and other international issues.

On another level, the Spanish minister has said that the relations between the two countries are excellent and that a Spanish delegation is to participate in Sudan's celebration of the May revolution. The minister said that the relations between the two countries have been improving since President Numayri's visit to Spain last October and the agreement signed after the visit. The minister also said that a number of scholarships will be offered by the Spanish Government to the Sudanese students.

JERUSALEM: NO AGREEMENT IF EGYPT INSISTS ON TARGET DATE

TA081030Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 79 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif and 'Oded Granot]

[Excerpts] If Egypt continues to insist on its demand to set a target date for election to the autonomy institutions and makes the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel dependent on the establishment of the autonomy, there is no chance of an agreement being reached even during the next round of talks which the United States is now preparing so scrupulously.

This evaluation was heard this morning from senior sources in Jerusalem in reaction to the reports from Cairo to the effect that Egypt is prepared to resume the negotiations on the date issue, in the form and in the place to be proposed by the United States, but has not gone back on its demands.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the negotiations will be resumed within the next 10 days and Jerusalem is expecting to receive an official proposal from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance today or tomorrow.

At a meeting yesterday between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the delegation of the Armed Forces Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, the prime minister was asked whether he is aware of any increased flexibility in the Egyptian position. His reply was in the negative. "All my information on this issue," he said, "comes to me from the radio...."

This week political consultations will be held in Jerusalem on the possible resumption of the peace talks with Egypt.

From the unofficial reports received from Cairo this morning, concerning the 16-page document that Egypt submitted to the United States toward the resumption of the negotiations, it emerges that, apart from minor changes in the formulation, the gap between Israel and Egypt concerning most of the articles in dispute remains unchanged.

It appears that, because of this, the U.S. Government has appealed to Egypt with a request for "further clarifications," and against this background the prime minister of Egypt, Dr Mustafa Khalil, again met with Ambassador Hermann Eilts.

UN OFFICERS: ISRAELI TANKS PATROL IN S. LEBANON

TA090735Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 79 TA

[Text] UN officers in southern Lebanon have said the Israeli Army is conducting regular tank patrols at night along the Lebanese side of the border. They told foreign correspondents visiting the area from Beirut that the Christian militia had brought Sherman tanks into the area near I'at, which is currently held by French troops who are due to be withdrawn shortly.

The commander of the UN force, General Erskine, told REUTER that six Lebanese army officers, accompanied by two soldiers, arrived in southern Lebanon yesterday to join the UNIFIL units. A few more Lebanese troops might arrive soon, but there were no immediate plans to send large numbers of them to the south.

JERUSALEM CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION IN LEBANON

TA081125Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Jan 79 p 2 TA

[By Daniel Bloch]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem is viewing with concern the worsening of the tension in Lebanon, particularly in the southern part of the country. It is believed that this worsening is deliberate and directly connected with the debate to be held in the Security Council at the end of the month on the extension of the UN forces mandate in southern Lebanon.

It appears that France, which is insisting on withdrawing its troops from the UN emergency force, is behind the Lebanese Army's attempts to move southward into the Christian enclaves. Several countries intend to propose in the Security Council a condemnation of Israel for its intervention in southern Lebanon. As far as can be seen, the United States will use its veto to thwart any such decision and any attempt to prevent the extension of the UN emergency force mandate.

KNESSET GROUP DISCUSSES EFFECTIVENESS OF UN MISSION

TA081615Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 8 Jan 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today discussed Israel's status in the United Nations. In the debate, held with the participation of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosef Chiechanover, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Prof Yehuda Blum said that to a certain extent there is no point in Israel's continuing its publicity efforts in the United Nations as the various delegations vote in accordance with directives they receive from their capitals and are not open to influence and conviction. More details on the session by correspondent Moshe Hakohen:

[begin recording] The United Nations is undergoing a process of extremization as far as Israel is concerned, Professor Blum says. The Arabs have managed to recruit not only the UN members but also the organization's administrative mechanism to suit their ends. At the moment the Arab countries have an automatic majority of 65 votes in the General Assembly, whereas Israel is able to recruit, at best, only 30 votes. The anti-Israel campaign conducted in the latest session of the General Assembly reached its peak in adopting the Iraqi draft resolution to enforce an arms embargo on Israel. This resolution, Professor Blum assesses, will not be passed by the General Assembly because the United States and the Western countries will veto it. However, this cannot conceal the fact that anti-Israeli ideological campaign conducted by the Arabs is getting worse, when their ultimate goal--the Israeli UN ambassador believes--is to question the legitimacy of Israel's existence.

The two Knesset members following whose motions the debate took place, Yosef Rom from the Likud and Dani Rosolio from the Alignment, claimed that even though the Israeli UN delegation and its leaders are good, the mission's publicity system is ineffective. They maintain that there is no cooperation between the Israeli mission to the United Nations and Israel's Washington Embassy or the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

At this point, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan interjected saying that this was not true and that the Knesset members do not know the fact. The two Knesset members, who served as Israeli delegates to the latest UN General Assembly session, also proposed increasing the number of Knesset members joining the delegation in the coming year.

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee set up a subcommittee to formulate its conclusions on this matter. [end recording]

KNESSET LEADER WORRIED ABOUT SITUATION IN IRAN

TA081417Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, says that Israel is worried about the events in Iran and about the lesson they teach. The United States did not foresee the developments and its intelligence service received the warning signals too late.

Arens revealed that Israel has grasped what would happen only a short time before the United States saw it.

The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee warned against similar developments in Saudi Arabia and even in Egypt. He believes that the peace treaty should not be signed unless the supply of oil is guaranteed. Arens was speaking at the Knesset to the delegation of the congressional Armed Services Committee.

WEIZMAN HOSTS U.S. DELEGATION, DISCUSSES TALKS

TA081205Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan p 3 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said last night that he believes in the sincerity of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, who wants peace with Israel on his conditions.

At a party last night in Jerusalem's Plaza Hotel in honor of the members of the Armed Forces Committee of the U.S. Congress, the defense minister expressed the hope that the negotiations will be resumed and that Israel and Egypt will sign a peace agreement in the spirit of the Camp David agreement. The defense minister recalled the party he held at the beginning of last November [as published] for the members of the same delegation. At that time, he sent through them his invitation to the president of Egypt to come to Israel. However, he regretted that during the 14 months which have now passed a peace has not been signed.

He compared the contacts with air combat. "The achievement in these dogfights is that the planes have not crashed; we came out of the clouds and went back into the clouds. We are continuing to fly."

The head of the delegation, Congressman L. McDonald from Georgia, greeted the prime minister and the defense minister by saying, among other things: "The ball is now in the U.S. court and, as a man from Georgia and as one who knows President Carter, I know that he will not play to the side or to the back of the court, but will run to the net in order to handle the ball." He expressed his confidence that the United States would act to continue the process with the aim of establishing a peace based on justice and security. The delegation, which includes congressmen and senior officers, also met yesterday with Prime Minister Menahem Begin, the head of the intelligence branch, Maj Gen Shlomo Gazit, and other senior officers.

CABINET DECISION ON NABULUS SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS REPORTED

TA091150Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Jan 79 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Daiya Shehori]

[Text] In its meeting on Sunday the cabinet approved a decision adopted by the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs regarding the Nabulus Nucleus. [paragraph continues]

The committee's decision states that the cabinet regards the nucleus members as candidates for settlement to be carried out in the near future.

The location of the settlement and the timing of its establishment, the decision states, will be determined by the cabinet, "taking into account the appropriate considerations." It further adds that in determining the site of the settlement an effort will be made to meet the wishes of the nucleus members. The nucleus members will return to their place at the Qaddum Camp pending the establishment of the settlement.

The decision of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs--which met on Sunday morning before the cabinet session--was submitted to the cabinet by Prime Minister Menahem Begin. It has been learned that the issue was raised at the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs session by the prime minister, who is the committee chairman. The prime minister wanted to find a way to evacuate the members of the Nabulus nucleus from the roadblock without clashing with them or exerting force.

Political observers last night assessed that the cabinet's decision came about in order to end the Nabulus nucleus affair in a suitable manner. However, the purpose of the decision, in their opinion, is to demonstrate--even if symbolically--the political position of the cabinet, which sees itself free of the pledge, which has meanwhile lapsed, given to the United States not to establish new settlements in Judaea and Samaria within a period of 3 months from the time the Camp David accords were signed.

It has been learned that at the cabinet session Begin emphasized that no date or "target date" has been set for the settlement of the nucleus. The prime minister added that the cabinet will not adopt decisions under pressure and that Ariel Sharon, the agriculture minister, would meet the members of the nucleus and would tell them of the cabinet's decision. Indeed, Minister Sharon met with the demonstrators on Sunday afternoon.

Following reports from members of the nucleus, according to which they were promised that their settlement would be established within 1 month east of Nabulus, the agriculture minister, replying to our correspondent, emphasized that in his meeting with them he had not set any date. He only remarked that the aim is to establish a settlement as soon as possible. Sharon added that the decision of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs of November 1977 to establish a settlement in the Nabulus area, to the east of the town, was relevant.

Reacting to reports, according to which there are indications that 4,000 dunams of private land in the Huwarah Mountain region will be expropriated in order to establish the settlement, the agriculture minister said that these allegations are unfounded. He further said that the site for the settlement has not been located yet and that it would be within the boundaries of state-owned land. He added that the question is not the establishment of a rural settlement but the establishment of a small community settlement for some 100 families (at the Qaddum Camp there are 35 families), who will earn their living from industry and thus will not need a large area of agricultural land.

The cabinet's secretary, Arye Na'or, yesterday told our correspondent that "there is not and nor will there be any expropriation and no settlement will be established by expropriating lands." Na'or added that "it is a fact that not even 1 square meter has been expropriated from the time this cabinet assumed power."

It has been learned that not all the members of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs were satisfied with the decision adopted, but no vote was taken.

During the deliberations, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, who was not satisfied with the committee's decision, reiterated his position--which he had already stated the week before to the Likud faction--to the effect that he favored fleshing out the existing settlements but opposed the establishment of new settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Weizman further added that the only substantive proposal on settlement in Judaea and Samaria had been submitted to the committee by his ministry over a year ago but up to date the committee had not finished discussing it. The Defense Ministry proposal recommends that settlement be carried out in 6 centers in Judaea and Samaria, in areas which provide for minimum friction with the Arab population.

The defense minister expressed his bitterness over the fact that the interference of Ministers Sharon and Hammer prevented the evacuation of the members of the Nabulus nucleus from the roadblock on two occasions. Had the IDF carried out the evacuation as planned, the defense minister thinks, the matters would not have been discussed at all and no decision would have been adopted.

It is to be pointed out that the issue was not discussed by the cabinet and it only heard a report by the prime minister.

SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS NOT ALLOCATED NABULUS SITE

TA091016Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The nucleus from Elon More which wants to settle in Nabulus has not been given a settlement site or a date for settling. This was said by governmental sources to our political correspondent, Shalom Qital. The sources said that they would treat that nucleus as they would any other settlement body. Its people will be able to submit a request to settle and the government, so the sources said, would study it and make its decisions in accordance with its settlement policy.

PEACE NOW MOVEMENT TO RENEW PROTEST ACTIVITIES

TA090732Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The Peace Now movement has decided to renew its protest activities again against the government, following the reported decision to allow Gush Emunim to establish a settlement near Nabulus. At a meeting in Jerusalem last night, Peace Now resolved that the decision would cause grave damage to the peace negotiations with Egypt. Three Knesset members have submitted urgent motions on the government decision. They are: Me'ir Pa'il of the leftwing Sheli Party; Yosi Sarid of the Alignment and Mordekhay Virshubsky of SHAY.

When the Gush Emunim members who had been camping for the last week at an army roadblock outside Nabulus agreed to go home yesterday, they said the government had promised to allow them to establish a settlement near Nabulus. They are to publish the text of their agreement with the government at a news conference in Jerusalem today.

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INA REPORTS ON FORMATION OF REGENCY COUNCIL IN IRAN

JN081701Y Baghdad INA in English 1950 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8, INA--A 9-man Regency Council including 41 to be named personally by the shah himself including 2 requiring assent of the government will be set up upon the departure of the shah for outside the country, INA correspondent here learned,

The council will include the prime minister, the speakers of both the Senate house and the Chamber of Deputies, the minister of the imperial palace and the president of the Supreme Court.

Formerly the formation of the regency council for the absence of the shah used to include the Prince Ghulam Reza Pahlavi, Prince Abdul Reza Pahlavi, both brothers of the shah, the prime minister, and the two speakers of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

Observers here expect the shah to leave the country at the weekend and that he would be accorded the usual departure ceremonies.

NATIONAL FRONT ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JN081715Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1647 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan--It was announced here today that the (central) council of the Iranian National Front last night elected new members for the front's Executive Committee.

(Darius Froher), the front's spokesman, said that the following were elected as members of the front's Executive Committee: (Abu al-Fadl Gasimi), the new secretary general of the Party of Iran; Dr Mahdi [second name indistinct] and (Shams ad-Din Amir 'Alai). The last two were ministers in Mosaddeq's government.

The front's Executive Committee now comprises seven members: Dr Karim Sanjabi, the front leader; (?Reza Shayan); (Darius Froher); and Dr Asadollah (Mubasher), in addition to the three mentioned above.

It will be recalled that Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar was a member of the front's Executive Committee. He was expelled, however, for agreeing to form a cabinet.

MAJLIS TO MEET ON 11 JAN INSTEAD OF 9 JAN

LD081234Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] According to our parliamentary correspondent, the extraordinary meeting of the Majlis which was to be held on Tuesday to discuss Prime Minister Bakhtiar's government program will instead be on Thursday at 1000.

Our correspondent adds that the Senate will have an open meeting on Saturday, during which Dr Bakhtiar's government program will be discussed.

JANA INTERVIEWS AIDE OF OPPOSITION LEADER KHOMEYNI

LD082124Y Tripoli JANA in English 1640 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, Jan 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Ayatollah Muntazari, currently visiting Damascus, affirmed that Bakhtiar's government would not survive and that those who joined him did not enjoy any public support.

Speaking at an interview with JANA's correspondent in Beirut, Ayatollah Muntazari, a close aide of Ayatollah Khomeyni, said in answer to a question about the parties that assisted the popular uprising in Iran, "the Iranian people who have suffered from oppression and terrorism is now ready to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of lives to get rid of this oppression. The Iranian popular uprising does not expect any outside help in its stand against the lackey shah and do not fear the Western powers assisting the shah's repressive regime."

He affirmed that with faith and determination the Iranian people will emerge victorious. He added that in the past Moslems managed to defeat the Persians and Romans. Speaking of possible American intervention in Iran which could be carried out under the excuse of evacuating American nationals, he said the national movement will deal with that accordingly.

In answer to a question about the stand of the National Front towards the Palestinian cause, Ayatollah Muntazari reaffirmed the support of the front for the Palestinian revolution as well as that of the Iranian people. He also stressed the National Front's support for all Moslems in the Philippines and for liberation movements not only in Africa but all over the world.

He referred to the opposition by some regimes to the Iranian popular movement and said, "we are more concerned with befriending the people of the world rather than opposing certain regimes."

"As for non-Moslem enemies," he said, "we will treat them the way they treat us."

He described Zionism as a fascist racist movement and voiced his opposition to usurpation of land, to those who make peace with Zionism and to the enemies of Islam. He visualized the establishing of an Islamic republic in Iran consisting of an advisory council comprised of Islamic scholars' a people's assembly and an executive committee headed by the president of the republic who of necessity should be one of those scholars. Asked about the national movement's stand concerning Iranian oil, Ayatollah Muntazari concluded, "we will sell our oil to whoever is willing to pay the right price, as long as they do not show harmful intentions towards Islam."

TEHRAN REPORTS ON 8 JANUARY DEMONSTRATIONS, FIRES

LD081221Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Demonstrations were staged today in Tehran and certain other cities of the country. In Tabriz, demonstrators attacked some stores, theaters, cooperative stores, a plant and bank branches and set them ablaze.

Our correspondent's report from Tabriz says that while the demonstrations were going on, firemen were trying to put out the fires. So far, we have received no report on the amount of damages sustained by various facilities and stores. The correspondent adds that the entire length of Pahlavi and Shahnaz streets and nearby houses are engulfed in smoke.

The report also says that during the Tabriz demonstrations, hundreds of areas in the city have been set on fire by the demonstrators, that the fires set to some stores and shops has already spread to other areas, setting dozens of other shops and houses on fire as well.

Security forces have joined relief forces and right now officers have been mobilized to prevent the spread of fire to private houses. According to the latest reports, six of Tabriz's eight theaters are burning.

In Yazd, too, demonstrations by a number of people became violent. Security forces tried to disperse the people but in the clashes which occurred some were injured. We have no accurate figures on the number of injured in Yazd.

Peaceful demonstrations were staged today in Zahedan. The demonstrators assembled at the city's Jame Mosque and held prayers. The demonstrations ended peacefully. In Sarab, too, a number of demonstrators gathered in the town's Jame Mosque and, after hearing a clergyman's speech, went on a peaceful march then dispersed peacefully.

In Esfahan, peaceful demonstrations and marches were held. This morning, a group of people in Rezaieh and its suburbs staged a peaceful march. According to our correspondent from this city, similar peaceful demonstrations were also staged in Khoy and Shahpur today.

In Mashhad, following the clergy's proclamation of a national mourning day, shops, government organizations and banks are closed. Thousands of inhabitants of the city took part today in a peaceful march.

Following a speech by one of the city's clergymen in one of the [word indistinct], demonstrations took place in Abadan today.

Thousands of residents of Qom, led by a number of ulema, theological students and representatives of their eminences the Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad mazem shari'at-Madari, Najafi Mar'ashi and Golpayegani, took to the streets and staged demonstrations, carrying portraits of their eminences.

Our correspondent reports from Arak that this morning peaceful demonstrations were staged in that city. According to our correspondent in Kerman, while all the stores and the city's main Bazaar were closed, demonstrations took place. The demonstrators first gathered in the city's mosques and made speeches reviewing the present situation in the country. Then, marching through the streets, they joined rallies staged by the workers of the regional electricity board, steelworks and the education department's employees who were holding a sit-in. The same report says that this morning peaceful demonstrations were staged in Jiroft, Bam and Rafsanjan; these demonstrations ended without any interference by security forces. The report adds that last night demonstrators set a private house on fire in Jiroft.

Further Report

LD081824Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Demonstrators and security forces clashed in the vicinity of the Tabriz railway station today. Our correspondent reports from Tabriz that the fire there spread to hundreds of shops and neighboring houses in the city. Many houses and shops were engulfed by the fire. Security forces rushed to help relief workers and have been mobilized to prevent the fire from spreading to more people's homes and shops and to put the fire out.

Demonstrators also staged a march in Marand today, and a group of people staged a peaceful march in Hastrud.

In Yazd the demonstrations led to violence. During these demonstrations security forces tried to disperse the demonstrators, but the demonstrators ignored the security forces' repeated warnings. The two sides clashed, and as a result several people were injured. According to a later report from our correspondent, a group of demonstrators who intended to attack the local SAVAK building met with resistance by security forces, and three demonstrators were killed in the ensuing clash.

Our correspondent reports from Ardabil that at noon today a group of the city's citizens gathered at the Ardabil mosque and later staged a march. Later the demonstrators gathered in front of the mosque and dispersed after reading a resolution. There were no incidents during these demonstrations.

There was a peaceful demonstration in Zahedan today. The demonstrators gathered in the city's Jame Mosque and held prayers there. The demonstration ended peacefully.

A group of citizens of Rezaiyeh and its suburbs staged a peaceful march this morning. According to our correspondent's report from the capital of Rezaiyah, peaceful demonstrations were also held in the towns of Khoi, Shahi and Mahabad today.

A group in Sanandaj today staged a peaceful march to commemorate those killed recently and to protest the incidents in the town of Baneh in which two people were killed. There were no incidents at this demonstration.

In Sari, capital of Mazandaran, there were demonstrations and a march today. During the demonstrations, after warnings by the security forces, there were clashes in which two people were killed and 10 people injured.

There were also marches in Babol, Amol and Shahsavari today, but there were no incidents.

In Mobarekeh, 30 km from Esfahan, a group of people staged demonstrations and, despite repeated warnings by security forces, they refused to disperse. As a result of clashes between the demonstrators and security forces one person was killed and six people injured.

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IRAN

TWO CHARGED WITH MISAPPROPRIATING GOVERNMENT FUNDS

LD081232Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Dr Iraj Siasi, managing director of the institute for recuperation, and Assadollah Mahmudzadeh, financial director of the institute, have been arrested, charged with misappropriation of government property. According to the public relations department of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, their cases are under investigation by the civil servants' tribunal in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Report of Arrest Denied

LD081845Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The report regarding the arrest of Dr Iraj Siasi, managing director of the institute for recuperation has been denied. The PARS NEWS AGENCY, quoting a spokesman of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, reported today that Dr Iraj Siasi had been arrested on charges of misappropriation of public funds. In a telephone conversation this evening, however, Dr Siasi completely denied the report of his arrest and described it as unfounded.

AYATOLLAH SHARI'AT-MADARI STILL CONFINED TO BED

LD081235Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] A PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent, after contacting the residence of His Eminence the Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, reports that his condition has improved since yesterday and that he has no temperature. However, he has been advised by his physicians not to leave his bed.

HEAD OF TEHRAN POLICE LEAVES COUNTRY FOR 'MEDICAL REASONS'

JN081642Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan--Maj Gen (Muhammad Jawad Mulawi), head of Tehran police, left the capital for abroad today for medical reasons, as described by police sources. This was reported today by the evening newspaper KAYHAN. The paper added that it did not know the real reasons behind (Mulawi) departure from the country.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER AZHARI LEAVES COUNTRY

LD081436Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] According to reports, Gen Gholam Reza Azhari, the former prime minister, on the advice of doctors, left the country yesterday for treatment and heart surgery. His heart condition [words indistinct] was considered very grave.

GENERAL OVEYSI REQUESTS PERMISSION TO BE RETIRED

LD081438Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] We were informed today that Gen Gholam 'Ali Oveysi, who is abroad on leave, yesterday announced that he had asked permission to retire.

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IRAN

TELEVISION, RADIO STATION DIRECTOR REPORTEDLY RESIGNS

JN081644Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan--(Torj Frazimand), director general of the Iranian television and radio establishment, submitted his resignation today from this post, which he occupied for only 24 days. It is believed that (Frazimand) resigned to allow the new minister of information and tourism to choose new directors for the ministry's establishments.

SHIRAZ REFINERY PRODUCTS TO BE AVAILABLE IN 7-10 DAYS

LD081836Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] A statement was issued today following negotiations between Mr Mehdi Bazargan [leader of National Front and Freedom Party] and the delegation accompanying him, and the Shiraz oil refinery workers. The statement calls upon the Shiraz oil refinery workers to resume work in order to produce oil products for domestic consumption. In an interview with our correspondent, a Shiraz oil refinery official said: If the Shiraz oil refinery installations have not been damaged, the refinery's products will be placed at the disposal of the people of Fars and neighboring provinces within 7 to 10 days. The Shiraz oil refinery produces petrol, kerosene, fuel oil, diesel and liquefied gas.

GULF NEWS AGENCY REPORTS FIRE IN NUCLEAR PLANT

JN082014Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan--It was announced here today that a fire broke out yesterday in a nuclear station to generate electricity. The station is being built on the River Karun, in southern Iran. The fire lasted 2 hours.

The damages are not known yet, but an official said today that the fire was premeditated despite the fact that first reports said that the fire was owing to an electrical short circuit.

INA CITES IRANIAN PAPER ON ESFAHAN EXPLOSION

JN081719Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 8 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan--The evening paper KAYHAN published here today reported that an explosion occurred in the American club in Esfahan last Thursday. The explosion resulted in the wounding of several American citizens.

The paper declined from giving further details but said that the American club was subject to a similar incident a few months ago.

The paper added that unknown persons yesterday set fire to cars of American experts in one of Esfahan's streets.

BANGLADESH

AWAMI LEAGUE LEADER ON PARTY STAND ON COMING ELECTIONS

BK090509Y Dacca BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Dec 78 pp 1, 12 BK

[Excerpts] Chittagong, Dec, 27--Mr. Abdul Malek Ukil, president of the Bangladesh Awami League [AL], said here today that his party would take part in the ensuing parliamentary elections without any precondition "if President Ziaur Rahman retires from the army, reports BSS.

The army, which he said is the wealth of (?the) people of the country, should not be involved in direct politics for the greater interest of the nation.

The AL president was addressing as chief guest a big public meeting held this afternoon at Laldighi Haidan here under the auspices of the Chittagong branch of the Sramik League.

Mr. Abdul Malek Ukil called upon the government to accept the six-point demand of his party to create what he called a congenial atmosphere for holding the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Terming the Awami League as a vital political party of the country Mr. Malek Ukil said his party is indispensable both for smooth running of a government and forming an effective opposition. Mr. Ukil said that Awami League which has a long chapter of struggle for the cause of the common masses would continue its struggle for establishing the legitimate rights of the people.

INDIA

HONECKER, DESAI TALK ON BILATERAL, INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

BK081619Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 79 BK

[Text] President Honecker of the German Democratic Republic, who arrived in New Delhi today, had his first round of talks with Mr Morarji Desai on bilateral and international issues. Mr. Honecker, who is general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party and chairman of the Council of State, is accompanied by a high level delegation. It includes the prime minister, Mr. Willi Stoph, and the foreign minister, Mr. Oskar Fischer. Mr. Honecker and Mr Desai met all by themselves for about half an hour and were later joined by their colleagues. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Mr. Vajpayee, Mr. Fernandes, Mr Kaushik, Mr Somarendra Kundu and Mr Arief Beg were present from the Indian side.

Both Mr Honecker and Mr Desai referred to the role of the two countries in relaxing tension in the world and in promoting their bilateral cooperation. On trade the two sides noted that a long-term program has been worked out; under it, bilateral trade is likely to be doubled by 1985.

Other subjects that came up at the talks were disarmament, the SALT II talks between the United States and the Soviet Union and the situation in southern Africa and west Asia.

Mr. Desai referred to the developments in Southeast Asia and expressed the hope that the disturbing situation between Vietnam and Kampuchea would be resolved peacefully.

Mr Honecker invited Mr Desai to visit GDR and Mr Desai accepted the invitation.

Honecker, Reddy Exchange Toasts

L4082215Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1848 GMT 8 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Delhi--The first day of Erich Honecker's visit to India ended with a dinner given by President N.S. Reddy for his guest at his official seat in New Delhi. Both heads of state proposed toasts, which were received with loud applause by the guests, the members of Erich Honecker's official party and Indian representatives. The dinner was also attended by Prime Minister Morarji Desai, cabinet ministers, parliamentarians and prominent representatives of Indian society and the society of the capital, Delhi.

Erich Honecker expressed thanks for the cordial welcome and conveyed the best wishes of the people of the GDR.

"Relations with the Republic of India have long had a firm and important place in the international policy of our state," he stressed. "This will also be the case in the future. Independent of economic considerations, we have continually expanded our traditional friendly relations. They rest on an extensive foundation of treaties and are developing in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence. Our unanimous belief that peace and security are indispensable for a happy existence of the peoples endows them with firm stability. One can say with certainty that our talks will strongly assist this development and will further strengthen mutual trust and understanding."

He said that the people of the GDR know the Republic of India well and have great respect for the magnificent cultural achievements of the Indian people in their thousands of years of history. "Sympathy with India's dedicated liberation struggle and the joint traditions of struggle against fascism and war are deeply rooted in the consciousness of the citizens of our socialist state," Erich Honecker said.

Today India is an active and respected participant in international life. "We very well appreciate what the Republic of India and its representatives are doing in the interests of the joint endeavors of the Asian states to safeguard peace on this continent." It is well known in the GDR what a stabilizing element the treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation between India and the USSR and the friendly ties between India and the other socialist states are.

"The Republic of India plays an important role in the nonaligned states movement," Erich Honecker stressed. "This movement, which emanated from the struggle of the peoples against imperialism and colonialism, is proving to be a positive factor in world politics." The GDR has followed with genuine interest the changes in the face of India and the remarkable successes it has achieved in industry, agriculture, science and technology since gaining its independence. "We well understand the difficulty and complexity of the tasks in overcoming a past characterized by exploitation by others and national suppression, and we wish the Indian people new, great successes on this path."

Erich Honecker described the foundation of the GDR 30 years ago as a turning point in the history of the German people and at the same time an event of far-reaching international significance. "Thus there arose in the heart of Europe a state whose policy is determined by the noble aims of peace, a state in which friendship between the peoples is dear to the hearts of all its citizens."

"Through the determined efforts of all peace-loving states and forces it has been possible in the past few years to bring about a change from cold war to detente," Erich Honecker said.

"This is an important historic achievement, but we do not overlook the fact that in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world influential circles are at work trying to frustrate this development. They have intensified the arms race to an unprecedented degree and are trying to thrust the world back into the cold war. This brings with it serious dangers for peace. No less dangerous are those who take as the point of departure for their policies the thesis that a nuclear world war is inevitable.

"In our age there is no sensible alternative to peaceful coexistence. Its further consolidation requires that all states and peoples take effective measures to end the arms race and bring about disarmament. We regard this as the key question of world politics."

Pointing to the recent declaration of the Warsaw Pact, Erich Honecker said that it was based on the assumption that it is necessary to achieve effective measures for nuclear disarmament and to prevent the development of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction. "We attach great weight to the early conclusion of a new agreement between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of strategic arms."

He stressed that India and the GDR belonged to those forces that have pledged themselves to the causes of freedom, independence and social progress. "We are witnesses and co-shapers of a historic change of our earth that is rooted in the will of our peoples to take their fate into their own hands. They want to be masters of their own fate and to resolutely defend what they have achieved against imperialism and aggression."

"We extend our undiminished sympathy and active solidarity to the struggle of the peoples for national and social liberation. The GDR strongly condemns all forms of colonialism, neocolonialism, racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid," Erich Honecker added. "We agree with the nationally liberated states in their efforts to achieve a reorganization of international economic relations on a democratic and just basis. The sovereign rights of states over their national resources must be guaranteed, discrimination must be eliminated, and equality of rights must be achieved in international economic relations, too."

India and the GDR consider it an urgent requirement "that all peace-loving states on earth and all peace forces cooperate closely to secure fresh victories for peace. Our exchange of opinions that began today in a cordial and frank atmosphere has again proved this.

"The unanimity of our opinions on the vital questions of mankind strengthens our certainty that our two states will continue to leave nothing undone to further strengthen their bonds of friendship in the interests of international security, peace and progress. At the same time we are convinced that the multifaceted fruitful cooperation between our states and the peoples in industry, trade, science, art and culture will open up new possibilities and will receive a new impetus. You may be assured of our readiness to contribute actively to it."

In his toast, President Reddy welcomed cordially Erich Honecker on behalf of the Indian Government and people "as the head of a friendly state with which India has excellent and firm relations."

N.S. Reddy stated: "Since independence India's leaders have encouraged a policy of peaceful coexistence between all nations, regardless of their form of government or social system. For many years, however, it looked as if the world would remain split into hostile camps. It seemed as if there were no means of avoiding the dangers of a conflict and disaster.

"We are pleased that in Europe, at least, the logic of detente and cooperation is now accepted and--to cite the Helsinki Final Act--Europe is committed to peace and security."

Led by the SED, the GDR people have made their country one of the most progressive countries of the world, Reddy stated. "While its economic, social and scientific progress is envied by many, I am pleased to be able to say that your progress has also benefited India. For two decades, the GDR has been one of the closest partners in our development. After a modest beginning, our trade now exceeds 1 billion rupees per year. We import chemicals, artificial fertilizers, ships and industrial machines from the GDR. We have cooperated in the fields of science and technology and have enriched each other through cultural exchange. Our cooperation has reached a stage that can and should now be raised to an even higher level. Our joint committee recently examined a large number of new fields, and I am pleased to know that a long term agreement on bilateral cooperation has been prepared for signing during your visit.

Referring to internal development in India, N.S. Reddy stated: "Our agriculture is in the process of modernization, and we have built up a strong and healthy industrial base. We have come a long way toward economic independence. India no longer suffers from an endemic shortage of food, and we can also cover our own needs for most raw materials and investment goods. Many doubted our performance capability, but not the GDR. We are very grateful to the GDR for its contribution to our progress. We believe that the GDR shares this confidence in our future."

India has drawn up its constitution and set its economic and social goals in such a way that they corresponded with India's needs and the creative spirit of its people. "We are determined to advance socially and economically without neglecting industry. At present, the emphasis lies on reorganizing our villages, removing poverty and creating jobs for millions."

"India's foreign policy of nonalignment and positive peaceful cooperation of mutual advantage is logical and corresponds with our aims," Reddy stressed. "It can release our inventive force and energy for national progress. It also contributes considerably to peace and stability in our region and in the world."

It is particularly understandable in this connection that the Indian Government attributes the greatest importance to solving problems with neighbors and respecting their independence. "We believe that this policy finds understanding and support in all countries. We intend to continue to persist in this policy and pursue its logic further." India does not intend to sacrifice existing and useful friendships or to profit from international tensions.

Recently, India's relations of cooperation with other developing countries in Asia and Africa have been further strengthened, Reddy stated. "We have also begun afresh to develop economic relations of this nature with the countries of Indochina which until recently were plagued by destructive wars and which are now bravely trying to rebuild their economies. We are making fresh efforts to improve our economic relations with the nations of the Association of Southeast Asian nations to which we are linked by a common cultural heritage and natural relationship. We believe these parallel efforts for regional cooperation and stability in south and Southeast Asia serve the broad interests of international stability and world peace."

India regrets the arms race that wastes limited resources for unproductive purposes, Reddy stressed. "We advocate general and total disarmament."

"This must include nuclear disarmament, an end to nuclear tests and an international commitment for all nations to avoid wars--either accidental or planned."

The consolidation of peace in the Indian Ocean is a matter of primary importance for India, Reddy stressed. "Therefore, we believe that the Indian Ocean must remain free of all naval rivalries on the part of the superpowers and of foreign military bases or foreign military presence."

The Indian president advocated a fair distribution of the world's goods and a new international economic order.

India highly values its friendship with the GDR, which has always demonstrated understanding and support for India's domestic and foreign policy and its economic efforts. "This historic visit is not only a symbol of our relations hitherto, but also a pledge for our future cooperation," N.S. Reddy stressed. "It is my firm belief that your nation and mine and all like-minded nations can and will work together to promote detente and peace between nations."

President Reddy wished "the industrious and friendly GDR and the continually growing force of friendship between India and the GDR even greater success."

Economic Agreements Signed

BK090746Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Jan 79 BK

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic signed an agreement in New Delhi this morning to further promote and diversify cooperation in economic, industrial, scientific and technical fields. This is to be achieved on a long term basis. Another agreement on merchant shipping was also signed.

The signing ceremony took place this morning at the conclusion of the summit talks between the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, and the visiting GDR chairman, Mr Erich Honecker. Mr Desai and Mr Honecker expressed satisfaction at the talks. They hoped that the agreements signed today would lead to better cooperation between the two countries in different fields.

PAKISTAN

POLAND TO SUPPLY EIGHT CARGO SHIPS TO PAKISTAN

BK051048Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 5 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Poland is to provide Pakistan with eight cargo ships against its credit of about \$90 million under an agreement concluded in Warsaw yesterday. This was stated by the federal minister for ports and shipping, Mr Mustafa Gokal, during a brief stopover in Karachi today on his way to Islamabad on the conclusion of his official visits to Yugoslavia and Poland. He said Poland will deliver five cargo ships by 1981 and the remaining three in 1982. The minister said a Polish team would be visiting Pakistan this month to finalize the details of the implementation of the agreement.

Mr Gokal said the interministerial conference of Pakistan and Yugoslavia would be held this month in Belgrade to consider ways and means for expanding the bilateral, economic and trade relations between the countries.

During his stay in Belgrade, the minister said he had talks with the Yugoslav officials on matters pertaining to trade and economic relations and cooperation between the two countries.